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(54) Title: RETURN PATH DERIVATION IN PACKET-SWITCHED NETWORKS
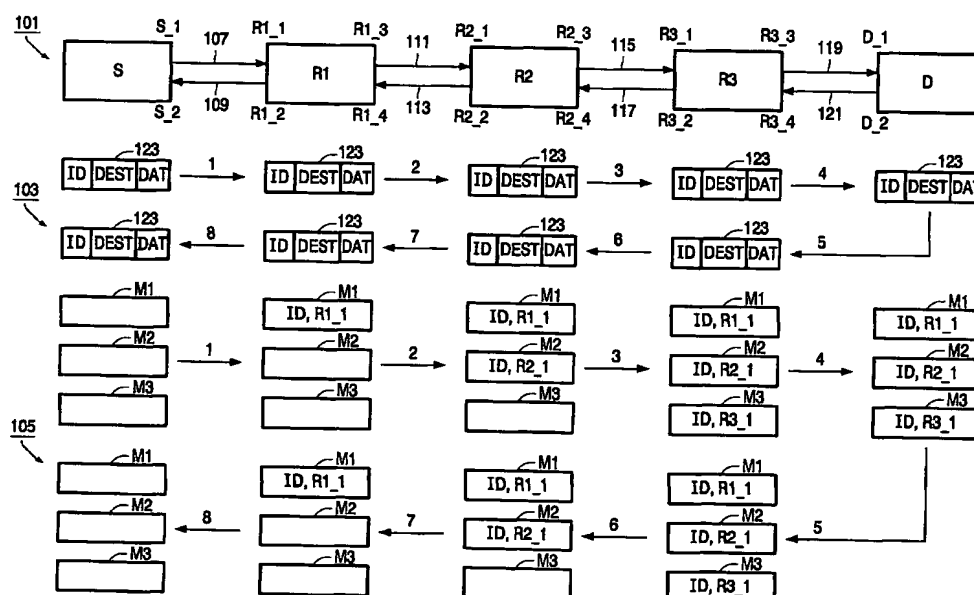
(57) Abstract: A network for transporting data consists of a group of two or more nodes, such as switches, routers or computer systems, linked together. Data is transported from a source node to a destination node through the network. In packed-switched networks, small units of data called packets are routed through the network from a source node to a destination node. These packets can also be used to program the network. In some cases it is required that the packet travels the return path to the source node. In the present invention, the return path is derived from information stored in the nodes of the network.